RED DOG – Year 9 English Film Text

All students to answer the following questions, in complete sentences

Copy the question and write your answer underneath please.

1. Describe the opening scene of the film “Red Dog”.
2. What is the setting of the film? (in time and place).
3. What does the word narrator mean? There are a number of narrators in this film (we hear their voice over during some scenes). Who is the first narrator?
4. “Why did you leave?” asks the publican. Who is he asking?What is the answer?
5. What is the effect of the sun on some of the men? Give 2 examples. (Peeto and Jocko)
6. “Everyone is homesick” Who says this? What does Jocko say in reply?
7. What does Jocko say about the reason people come to work in places like Dampier?

True False Statements – Write out the sentence. Write true of false at the end. Rewrite correctly if false.

Section 1 (facts)

1. Red Dog has no master (at the beginning of the film)
2. Red Dog is first found by the publican, Jack and his wife.
3. Red Dog is made a member of the workers’ Union.
4. Red likes hitch-hiking.
5. Red Dog doesn’t choose his master.
6. The bus driver makes Red Dog his own dog the first time he sees him.

Section 2 (reading between the lines or looking more deeply)

1. The film’s setting is in a remote country town in the 1970s.
2. There is a culture of drinking and violence in the town.
3. There are more men than women working for the company.
4. There are many people from one country working for the mining company.

Section 3. (bigger issues, no true or false, just your opinion) Write the sentence and comment in writing giving your opinion.

1. This film is about friendship.
2. The characters in this film are true to life.
3. The plot in this film is based on the truth.
4. The film is a tall story.
5. Animals play an important part in human lives.
6. This is an Australian film which shows an Australian sense of humour.
7. Gambling is a result of boredom.

Research

Choose one of the following topics, research and take notes. Give a brief oral presentation to the class on what you have discovered. (2 minutes minimum)

1. Hamersley Iron (the company)
2. The breed of dog in the film (Red Dog)
3. Railways in Western Australia
4. The actors: any of the main characters.
5. The director
6. The writer
7. The original book
8. Filming on location – the geography, eg aerial shots etc.
9. Costume and make up

10)The work the men and women do

Choose two (2) of the following activities.

1. Write a plot summary of the film. (3 paragraphs)
2. Analyse a character who appears throughout the film. What role does he/she have in the film? Give one quotation from the film and describe why it is significant.
3. Draw a map of Red Dog’s movements, illustrate with key events and mark with key characters’ involvement. (eg getting shot in the caravan park)
4. Write a profile of Red Dog and his close relationships with key characters.
5. Write a paragraph responding to the following statement, making reference to the film “Red Dog”. A dog is a man’s best friend.

## Film Techniques – small group and whole class discussion.

The film, Red Dog, when viewed as a film narrative, reveals a style of storytelling that is very specific.

* What *kinds* of story is it?
  + Drama?
  + Comedy?
  + Love story?
  + Other?
* While it can be one or all of these genres, think about how music, scenery, dialogue and camera can be used to provoke feelings, reactions and understanding about the story. For example:
  + When Nancy and John first meet the **camera** shows us that their eyes meet, implying something significant is passing between them. **Music** also directs us to understand that something significant is happening.
  + Often when something is happening that is funny, the **camera** brings us right into the action (eg. The bar fight scene) and **close-up shots** of character’s faces enhance the humour, while chaotic **sounds and camera movement** enhance the sense of the scene.
  + Late in the film, Red Dog goes on a journey to find his master. This is an extremely dramatic and significant part of the story. Consider all of the production elements that are used to give the audience a sense of its importance:
    - The **voice-over** by Vanno who tells the story. His voice and his **acting** give us a sense of the sadness and drama of the event.
    - The **close-up shots** of Red Dog’s face; he waits, yearningly for his master to come home. Then, when he leaves of his journey, the **camera** takes a much wider view to show us how large his task is: we see him as a small feature on a huge landscape.
    - The **music** enhances the sense of the drama and pathos of the scene.
    - The **graphic** of the map of Australia, illustrating the scope of his journey and dedication.

Consider this: we, as the audience, could not be aware of Red Dog’s journey if we had not been shown this kind of perspective via the use of a wide range of cinematic techniques and hardware. Other production elements you might want to consider/discuss:

* **Editing**
* **Casting**
* **Acting**
* **Location and sets**